Expression of Several Grammatical Meanings in Oral Vs. Graphical Constructed Languages

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What are conlangs? Conlangs vs NLs

Natural languages (NLs) appear as a result of a natural evolution.

Constructed languages (or **conlangs**) are languages that appear as a result of an intentional creation by a particular person or a group of people.

Oral conlangs (OCLs) possess an oral form (spoken or signed), just like NLs.

Graphical conlangs (pasigraphies) lack an oral form and have a written form based on semantics rather than phonology.

Aims of conlangs

- auxiliary (auxlangs) - for international communication (**includes all pasigraphies**)
- zonal (zonlangs) - auxlangs for a particular language family or area
- artistic (artlangs) - for mere recreation
- engineered (englangs) - for testing the abilities of a human language

Grammatical meanings under discussion

- **Tropative** - ‘a derivation with a meaning: X considers Y to be Z’ [Tarasov 2019: 1]
- **Apparetive** - ‘a derivation having a meaning: X seems to be Y’ [Tarasov 2021b: 2]
- **Causative** - a meaning ‘to cause smb/smth to be or to do smth’

Range of a sample

- 19 OCLs
- 4 pasigraphies (all that were available):
  - Blissymbols
  - Mediaglyphs
  - Nobel Universal Pictorial Language (NUPL)
  - Paleneo

Pro-conlang arguments

- choice of a model can show the creator's own position on what is easy or naturalistic and what is not
- typological data can help us explain linguistic universalities and diachronic changes
- no strict border between NLs and conlangs: Newspeak (Orwell) and Basic English (C. Ogden); Modern Indo-European vs Hebrew

Methods of research

Cross-sectional method

Short-online survey involving translation of 6 sentences from Engish or Russian performed by advanced users

For studying tropatives and apparetives

Necessary because these meanings are rarely mentioned in grammar descriptions

Grammar description analysis

Applicable for causatives because causative is usually well described

Preferable since studying causatives requires checking wide range of contexts

Necessary for two pasigraphies since they lack active community

Tropative and apparetive: terminology

Negative tropative/apparetive - ‘X does not consider Y to be Z’, ‘X does not seem to be Y’. [Tarasov 2021a: 85]

Positive-negative symmetry: negative construction is a grammatical negation of a positive one

Tropative and apparetive: terminology

Reverse tropative - ‘Y is considered to be Z’ [Tarasov 2021a: 84]

Direct-reverse symmetry: reverse construction is a result of passivization/intransitivization of a direct one

There can be no reverse apparetive

Tropative and apparetive: degrees

1st degree tropativity/apparetivity
Morphological expression (with an affix).
E.g., Arabic tropative: *hasuna* ‘to be good’ - *ist-’ahsana* ‘to consider good’ [Jacques 2013: 1]
Or Klingon apparetive: *val* ‘to be intelligent’ - *vallaw’* ‘to seem intelligent’ [Tarasov 2021b: 6]
Additional parameters: strong/weak (strong 1st degree tropative/apparetive is applicable to all stems of a particular class, weak one is irregular), polysemic/monosemic

Tropative and apparetive: degrees

2nd degree tropativity/apparetivity
Syntactic tropative/apparetive expressed analytically.
A triadic or dyadic predicate expressed by one finite clause.
E.g., *I consider him (to be) intelligent; He seems (to be) intelligent*
Same for Persian: *Man u-rā hušmand hesāb mi-konam*
Additional parameters: polysemic/monosemic

Tropative and apparetive: degrees

3rd degree tropativity/apparetivity

Polypredicative construction.

All arguments of tropative expressed explicitly

E.g., *I think he is intelligent; It seems that he is intelligent*

4th degree tropativity

Descriptional tropative, direct and reverse tropative are not distinguished

E.g., *He is probably smart*

Tropative in OCLs

Source of data: [HSE 2022]

No 1st degree languages

2nd degree - 11 languages

3rd degree - 6 languages

4th degree - 2 languages

Tropative in OCLs

Source of data: [HSE 2022]

Direct-reverse symmetric - 8 languages

Direct-reverse asymmetric - 9 languages (7 - direct constructions used instead of reverse ones)

Positive-negative symmetric - 18 languages

Positive-negative asymmetric - 1 language

Tropative in OCLs: polysemy

- to praise or to scold (Solresol[a]: *milado/dolami*)
- to say (Sambahsa[a]: *ay*)
- to consider (Globasa[a]: *kol-*)
- to have (Interslavic[z]: *imeti*)
- to respect (Interslavic[z]: *uvažati*)
- to find (Folkspraak[z]: *find-*)
- inessive marker + proximity marker + mind (aUI[e]: *gLUv*)

a = auxlang
z = zonlang
e = englang

Typical tropative model (OCLs)

Esperanto (an auxlang by L.Zamenhof):

mi (ne) opini-as li-n sağa homo

1sg (neg) consider-pres 3sg-ACC smart person

‘I (don’t) find him/her smart’ [Tarasov 2019: 8]

li (ne) opini-at-as sağa homo

3sg (neg) consider-pass-pres smart person

‘(S)he is considered to be smart’

Typical tropative model (OCLs)

Guosa (a pan-Nigerian zonlang by A.Igbineweka)

mo/mi	*tunche*	*kpe*	*o*	*di*	*yeze*
1sg/1sg.neg	think	comp	3sg	cop	smart

‘I think/do not think that he is smart’ [elic.]

ao/ai	*tunche*	*kpe*	*o*	*di*	*yeze*
1pl/1pl.neg	think	comp	3sg	cop	smart

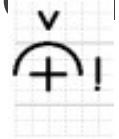
‘We think/do not think that he is smart’ [elic.] = “He is (not) believed to be intelligent”

Tropative in pasigraphies

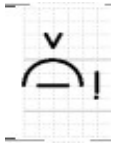
Language/ Feature	Tropativity level	Polysemy	Direct / reverse symmetry	Positive / negative symmetry
Blissymbols	lexical;morphological reverse tropative	monosemic	symmetry	symmetry
Mediaglyphs	lexical	monosemic	symmetry	symmetry
NUPL	morphological (universality unknown)	monosemic	unknown	unknown
Paleneo	morphological (universality unknown)	implicit tropative	unknown	unknown

Morphological-level tropative in pasigraphies

Reverse tropative in Blissymbols (by C. Bliss)



good-think.int ‘correct’

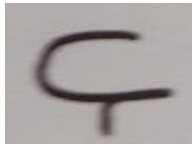


bad-think.int ‘incorrect’ [BCI 2020]

Morphological-level tropative in pasigraphies

Implicit tropative in Paleneo (by L. Charteris)

‘good’, ‘to accept’

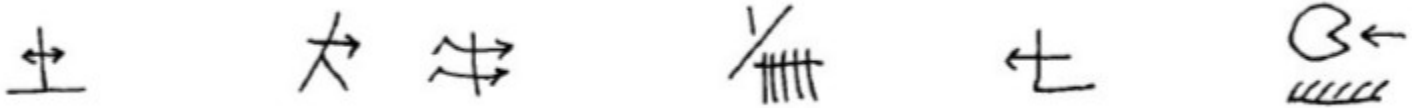


‘bad’, ‘to reject’ [Charteris 1972: 31]

Morphological-level tropative in pasigraphies

Tropative in the NUPL (by M. Randic)

2sg can.neg **trop-come** horse run fast



cond 2sg pres.neg neg.keep 3sg.inan graze

‘You can’t expect the horse to run fast if you don’t let it graze’ [Randic 2009: 394-395]

Apparetive in OCLs

Source of data: [HSE 2022]

1st degree - 2 languages

2nd degree - 13 languages

3rd degree - 4 languages

Positive-negative symmetric - 19 languages (100%)

Apparetive in OCLs: polysemy

- to be seen (Esperanto[a]: *aspekti*)
- to look (Interslavic[z]*: vygledati*)
- to show oneself as (Interslavic[z]: *kazati si*)
- to be probable (Sindarin[f]: *nef*)
- feel + shine (aUI[e]: *Oiv*)

a = auxlang
z = zonlang
f = artlang (fictional)
e = englang

1st degree apparetive (OCLs)

Klingon (an artlang by M.Okrand):

val ‘intelligent’ - *val-**law’*** ‘to find intelligent’ [Tarasov 2021b: 7]

Ithkuil (an england by J.Quijada):

*tv-älo-**rd**-a* *ma*

intelligent-state-app-3sg 3sg

‘He seems to be intelligent’ [Tarasov 2021b: 7-8]

Typical apparetive model (OCLs)

Volapük (an auxlang by J.M. Schleyer)

(no) *jin-om* *sagatik*

(neg) seem-3sg intelligent

‘He seems/does not seem intelligent’ [elic.]

Apparetive in pasigraphies

Language/ Feature	Apparetivity level	Polysemy	Positive / negative symmetry
Blissymbols	lexical	monosemic	symmetry
Mediaglyphs	lexical	monosemic	symmetry
NUPL	lexical	monosemic	symmetry
Paleneo	lexical	to be similar	unknown

Unusual apparetive polysemy: pasigraphies

Paleneo

‘to be similar’

Inexistent in OCLs [HSE 2022]

Found in <1% of NLs [CLICS 2019]

Tropative and apparetive: overall

- No 1st degree tropative among 19 OCLs, but three morphological-level tropatives among 4 pasigraphies
  - Rare among NLs: 7% due to [HSE 2020]
- No 1st degree apparetive in pasigraphies (but the sample is scarce)
  - No available data on NLs
- Implicit tropative and unusual apparetive polysemy in Paleneo!
  - Not detected in NLs
- Tropative compatible with dynamic verbs in the NUPL!
  - Not detected in NLs

Causative in OCLs

Source of data: [HSE 2022]

No morphological causative - 3 languages

Weak causative markers - 2 languages (only verbal in Volapük, only non-verbal in Interslavic)

Strong causative markers - 13 languages (only non-verbal in Folkspraak and Elefen, universal in other languages)

Causative in OCLs: alternative strategies

Stem alteration:

like in English: ‘to eat’ - ‘to feed’, ‘to see’ - ‘to show’, etc.- 10 languages (56%)

Non-integrating verbs:

‘to order’, ‘to command’, ‘to allow’ (not expressing the caused action) - 16 languages (89%)

Implicit causative: 2 languages (11%)

Solresol *simisol* ‘simple’, ‘to simplify’

Ithkuil *atř* ‘to be observable’, ‘to make observable’

Causative in OCLs: distribution

Auxlangs

no marker in Solresol (F.Sudre, 1828), weak markers in Volapük (J.M.Schleyer, 1880), strong markers in other languages starting from Esperanto

Zonlangs

no universal (and verbal) markers

Artlangs

strong universal markers in all (four) artlangs

Causative in OCLs (englangs)

No weak markers!

Strong markers - 3 languages: logical Lojban (by the Logical Language Group), emotional Laadan (by S.H.Elgin) and oligosynthetic aUI (by J. Weilgart)

No markers - 2 languages: simplistic Toki Pona (by S.Lang) and sophisticated Ithkuil (J. Quijada)

Causative in pasigraphies

Language/Feature	Marker type	Alternative strategies
Blissymbols	strong universal	non-integrating causative verbs
Mediaglyphs	strong universal	stem alteration, non-integrating causative verbs
NUPL	weak universal	stem alteration, non-integrating causative verbs, implicit causative
Paleneo	strong universal	non-integrating causative verbs

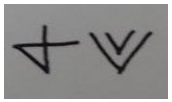
Causative: typical examples

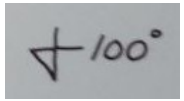
Globasa (an oral auxlang by H. Ortega):

side ‘to sit’ - *side-gi* ‘to seat’

bala ‘strong’ - *bala-gi* ‘to strengthen’ [Globasa 2019 4.2]

Paleneo:

 ‘fit’ -  ‘to adjust’



‘to boil’

Causative: overall

- Mainly morphological causative expressed with strong markers
  - 92% of NLs possess morphological causative [WALS 2005]
- Non-integrating causative verbs and stem alteration are used more often than implicit causatives
  - No evidence of regular implicit causatives in NLs
- Universal markers are more widespread than strictly verbal/strictly non-verbal
  - Situation seems to be different in NLs

General conclusion

- Causative is morphological among most of OCLs and in all pasigraphies under discussion, the situation is the same in NLs
- On the other hand, three of four pasigraphies utilize morphological tropative, while none of OCLs does it and this feature is rare in NLs
- In terms of apparetive, pasigraphies also demonstrate some peculiarities, while there is too little reliable data about NLs
- Thus, while three categories of languages have similar causative features, their tropative and apparetive features are not the same. The most probable reason is different levels of coverage and grammaticalization in natural languages.

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